

Black-browed Albatross scavenging on refuse thrown overboard did not dispute possession with these skuas.

Nearly three weeks later, on 9th July 1960, about 24 hours after sailing from Capetown, homeward bound, two skuas—possibly the same birds seen on 22nd June—observed from 1710 till dark (noon $29^{\circ} 18' \text{ S.}$: $13^{\circ} 47' \text{ E.}$).

“BROWN”? SHEARWATER. At 1230 on 11th May, a large unidentified shearwater seen momentarily near the stern.

A new species of *Cisticola*

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While examining the *Cisticolas* in Field Museum of Natural History, three specimens were found in the series of *C. cinereola* that evidently did not belong to that form, and represented a new species. All were from the lower Tana River area, east of 40° E. and south of 1° S. Solicitation of other museums produced three more specimens from the Los Angeles County Museum, taken in the same area and also misidentified as *C. cinereola*. These six specimens, apparently all that are known of this new form, may be described as:

Cisticola restricta sp. nov.

Type: adult ♂ from Karawa, lower Tana River, Kenya, $2^{\circ} 38' \text{ S.}$ $40^{\circ} 12' \text{ E.}$ Collected 4 June 1932 by V. G. L. van Someren. Field Museum of Natural History number 200020.

Description: superficially most nearly resembles *C. cinereola* with which it has been confused in the past. Differs from *cinereola* as follows:

(1) lacks the white bases to the nape feathers; (2) has a rusty wash to the feathers of the head top and nape, setting them off from the grey-brown back, while in *cinereola* the coloration of the upperparts is uniform; (3) has the dark streaking of the upperparts narrower; (4) has a grey wash on the sides of breast and flanks not found in *cinereola*; (5) has the tail proportionately longer than in the perennially plumaged populations of *cinereola* found in Kenya. In general, *restricta* is a pale, grey-brown, medium-sized *Cisticola*, finely and uniformly streaked on crown and upper back, the crown lightly washed with rusty; lower back and rump uniform grey-brown; tail grey-brown and of typical *Cisticola* pattern, the tips pale buff and the black spots bold, visible both above and below, but not quite reaching the edges of the feathers; edgings of wings faintly rusty, but not in marked contrast to upperparts; tenth (outermost) primary blade-shaped, about half the length of ninth; underparts a very pale buff, almost white, with a light grey wash on sides of breast and flanks. Sexual dimorphism in size appears moderate, wing length of the single female available being about 90% that of the males. There is no evident dimorphism in colour. A young male in first winter plumage has the crown much more reddish than adults.

Measurements of type: wing 61; tail 56; culmen 14+ (tip broken); tarsus 22 mm.

Range: the area around the lower Tana River from Sangole and Ijara to Karawa. Co-ordinates of the localities from which *restricta* has been taken are Ijara, 1° 34' S., 40° 31' E; Karawa, 2° 38' S., 40° 12' E; Mnazinia, 1° 59' S., 40° 08' E; and Sangole, 1° 30' S., 40° 36' E.

Remarks: the relationships of *restricta*, particularly in view of the lack of knowledge of its behaviour, can not be determined at this time. Despite its apparent similarity to *cinereola*, I do not believe that *restricta* is most closely related to that species. The most striking distinction is the lack in *restricta* of the white bases to the nape feathers, a character that is diagnostic of *cinereola* among the medium-sized *Cisticolas*. Also, the range of *cinereola* extends down the Tana to Bura (spec. Los Angeles Co. Museum), a locality within fifty miles of Ijara, and further collecting may well show that *cinereola* and *restricta* overlap. (see map).

The species which *restricta* most nearly resembles is *Cisticola lais* of which the race *distincta* is found in the Kenya highlands. Like *restricta*, *distincta* has the upperparts including the crown well streaked, with a rusty wash on crown and nape. In general appearance *restricta* is a pale, washed-out version of the richly coloured *distincta*. In size they are also alike, except that *distincta* has a longer, more robust tarsus. However, the habitat of *restricta* is all wrong. According to John Williams (*in litt.*) the lower Tana is "arid thorn bush country, mainly red sand with a belt of riverine acacia along the Tana." On the other hand, *distincta*, and all other races of *lais*, occur "mainly in the highlands on rocky hillsides and at the bases of cliffs where there are rocks, grass and scattered bush." In the genus *Cisticola*, where behaviour is notably constant and plays such an important part in classification, such diversity of habitat preference would be most unusual within a single species or even between two closely related species. Unless actual knowledge of *restricta* in life shows that it is similar in song and behaviour to *distincta*, I would question any close connection.

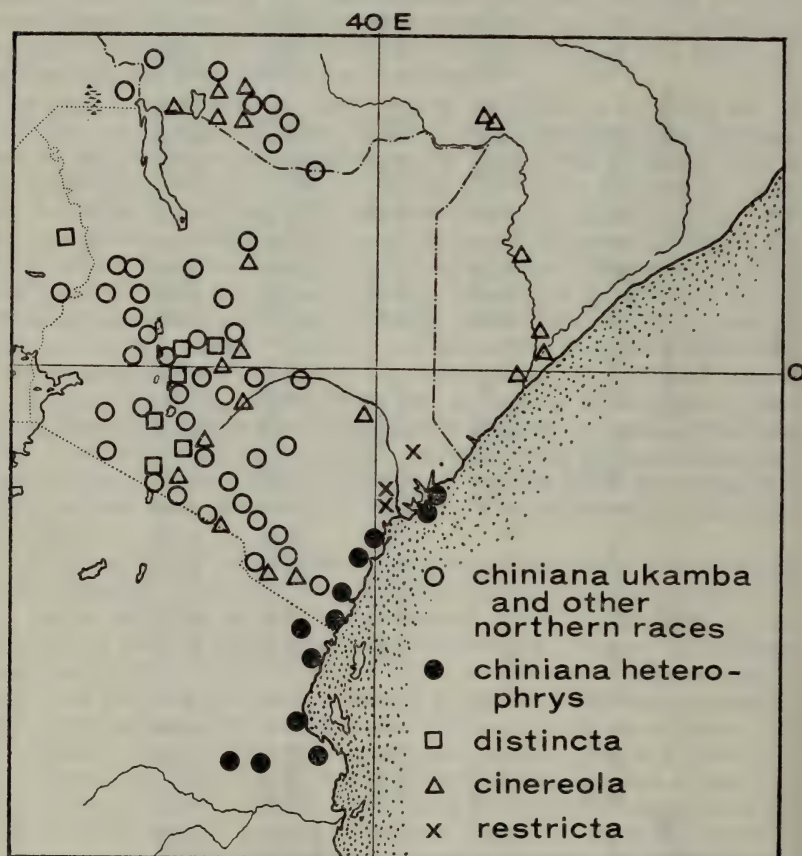
A third species to which *restricta* shows a superficial resemblance is *chiniana*. However, *restricta* differs in being smaller and with a proportionately longer tail, and in lacking the marked sexual dimorphism in size, female about 80% of male, that is characteristic of *chiniana*. In addition, *restricta* is sympatric with *heterophrys*, the coastal race of *chiniana* that is found from Lamu to Dar-es-Salaam and Kilosa. In coloration, *restricta* is easily distinguished from the plain coloured, sympatric *heterophrys*, but does resemble the streaked *ukamba* of arid interior Kenya. However, it differs from *ukamba* in having a streaked rather than mottled crown, and its dorsal streaking is narrower. Here again knowledge of *restricta* in life would be most helpful, because *chiniana* is one of the most distinctive of all *Cisticolas* in habits. The habitat at least is correct, for *chiniana*, like *restricta* and *cinereola*, is everywhere a bird of thorn bush and acacia.

Comparative measurements of the various species are given in the table. The four species form a surprisingly uniform group in wing size, but differ somewhat in proportions. *C. chiniana heterophrys* and *C. distincta* have proportionately larger tarsi and bills, but the differences between species are no greater than between the two subspecies of *chiniana*. *Distincta* and *restricta* have proportionately longer tails, but again this difference is no greater than between the winter and summer tails of the

Wing ♀/♂	tail/wing	Tarsus	Culmen	Tail	Wing	<i>restricta</i>		<i>cinerea</i>		<i>chiniana ukamba</i>		<i>chiniana heterophrys</i>		<i>distincta</i>	
						♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀	♂ ♀
83	%89	22-23	15, 15, 15	56-58	(4) 61-66	(1)	(1)	(11) 60-65	(2) 54, 54	(9) 49-54	(10) 13.5-15.5	(13, 14	(15.5)	(11) 22-25	(23.7)
88	%89	21	15	53	56	(1)	(1)	(9) 49-54	48	(2)	13, 14	(13.8)	(2)	21, 22.5	(21.8)
85	87	22-25	15-16	53-60	(11) 63-70	(9) 53-60	(11) 15-16	(15.5)	(11) 22-25	(23.7)	(82 fide Lynes)	85	88	83	94
83	79	23-25	15-17.5	50-56	(13) 62-68	(11) 50-56	(12) 15-17.5	(16.3)	(13) 23-25	(24.0)	83	83	92	94	92
		21-22	13-14.5	40-43	(5) 49-53	(5) 40-43	(5) 13-14.5	(14.0)	(5) 21-22	(21.2)					
		22.5-23	14.5-16	51-55	(4) 59-64	(5) 56-59	(4) 55-60	(58.5)	(4) 23.5-25	(24.1)					
		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5) 57.6	(5) 51-55	(4) 55-60	(53.0)	(4) 23.5-25	(22.8)					

annually plumaged Abyssinian populations of *cinereola*. The great sexual dimorphism in size in *chiniana* is evident in the figures for *heterophrys* and also for *ukamba* when Lynes' figures, based on many more specimens, are used. Again, *restricta* and *distincta* agree in showing the least dimorphism.

Summarizing what can be learned from museum specimens *restricta* appears most nearly related to *distincta*. However, the marked difference in habitat, arid sandy thorn bush versus rocky, grassy hillsides, is too great to unite them in the same species at this time. The final disposition of *restricta* must await its study in the field.



Map of East Africa showing the distribution of the new species *Cisticola restricta* and its possible relatives *chiniana*, *distincta* and *cinereola*. The Tanzania range of *chiniana* races other than *heterophrys* is omitted.

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